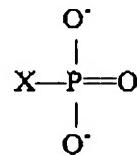


In re Appln. of Verschueren et al
Application No. 10/016,960

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) Direct-to-plate method of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate having a hydrophilic surface comprising the steps of:
 - (a) making a negative-working imaging layer by coating on the hydrophilic surface a solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles;
 - (b) making a printing master having ink-accepting areas by image-wise exposing the imaging layer to heat or light;
 - (c) applying ink and fountain solution to the printing master;
 - (d) removing the ink-accepting areas from the printing master by supplying a cleaning liquid to the imaging layer thereby obtaining a recycled substrate and
 - (e) treating the recycled substrate by supplying a refreshing liquid consisting of an aqueous solution having a pH<7.
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein the negative-working imaging layer comprises a hydrophilic binder.
3. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein the aqueous solution having a pH<7 comprises a compound according to formula I:



(I)

wherein X is OH, O⁻ or a polymer backbone.

4. (Original) Method according to claim 3 wherein the compound according to formula (I) is phosphoric acid or a phosphate salt.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

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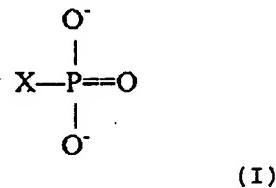
6. (Currently Amended) Method according to any of the preceding claims claim 1 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the ink and fountain solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid or the refreshing liquid is sprayed or jetted onto the substrate.

8. (New) Method according to claim 1, where the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

9. (New) Method according to claim 1 wherein the solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid, or the refreshing liquid is jetted onto the substrate.

10. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein the aqueous solution having a pH<7 comprises a compound according to formula I:



wherein X is OH, O⁻ or a polymer backbone.

11. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

12. (New) Method according to claim 3 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

13. (New) Method according to claim 4 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

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14. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

15. (New) Method according to claim 3 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

16. (New) Method according to claim 4 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

17. (New) Method according to claim 5 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

18. (New) Method according to claim 8 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

19. (New) Method according to claim 9 wherein the solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid, or the refreshing liquid is jetted onto the substrate.

20. (New) Method according to claim 8 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.